



SFI: Responsible Procurement of Wood and Paper Products

Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) program participants practice responsible forestry on the lands they manage, and influence millions of additional acres in North America and globally through certified procurement programs. These programs include measures to acquire wood from known and legal sources, to keep our waters clean and fresh, and to conserve biological diversity, among other things.

SFI: Promoting forest stewardship at home and around the world

All forest landowners play a critical role in the long-term health and sustainability of forests. The SFI program stands apart from other forest certification standards by addressing the fact that 90 percent of the world's forests are not certified.

It does this through procurement objectives requiring that all program participants — both those who own or manage forest lands and those who buy the raw materials they need — promote responsible forestry by sharing management and stewardship knowledge when they buy fiber from lands that are not certified.

The SFI 2005-2009 Standard takes this commitment a step further through a specific objective, which requires that organizations buying raw materials have an auditable procurement process designed to improve forest management on all suppliers' lands. Procurement organizations must show they are providing guidance for responsible forestry, such as encouraging landowners to reforest areas that have been harvested, to use best management practices for protecting water quality, and to identify and protect important habitat elements for wildlife, including critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities. They must also encourage landowners to use the services of qualified resource and logging professionals.

Sixty percent of the fiber in forest products manufactured in the United States comes from the 10 million small family-owned forests in the country, and most are not certified. In a 2005 study, the Texas Forest Service concluded that implementation of best management practices was statistically significantly higher when the timber was delivered to an SFI-certified mill.

The SFI 2005-2009 Standard requires that program participants track raw material in the supply chain and take measures to obtain it from legal and responsible sources when the products and wood fiber are acquired within offshore jurisdictions that lack effective laws.

Representing local interests

SFI Inc. represents local interests through 37 SFI Implementation Committees, a unique grassroots network at the state, provincial or regional level. SFI program participants provide leadership through these committees, improving forest management on lands that are both certified and not certified, and leading to consistent SFI implementation adapted to meet regional needs.

Since 1995, SFI program participants have contributed \$44.5 million to support local programs such as logger and forester training and outreach to family forest owners, as well as to develop and respond to concerns about inconsistent practices, and to conduct sustainable forestry research and a variety of other activities at the state or provincial level. Through the SFI program, close to 7,000 loggers and foresters were trained in responsible forestry in 2007, and more than 110,000 have been trained since 1995.

RESPONSIBLE SOURCING IN NORTH AMERICA

For sources in the United States and Canada, SFI program participants must comply with all applicable laws, and encourage owners of lands that are not certified to use loggers and resource professionals trained in responsible forestry practices. This expertise helps to promote the use of best management practices, protection of endangered species and habitats, and prompt reforestation of harvest sites, among other things.

RESPONSIBLE SOURCING OFFSHORE

For sources outside of the United States and Canada without effective laws, SFI program participants must take measures to procure all fiber from known and legal sources. This includes completing a risk assessment to avoid illegal sources of supply and promoting the conservation of biodiversity hotspots and major tropical wilderness areas as defined by Conservation International. It also means addressing issues such as workers' health and safety, fair labor practices, indigenous peoples' rights, anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures, prevailing wages, and workers' right to organize.

SFI fiber sourcing label

The SFI program has two different lines of product labels to help consumers identify what they are buying — one shows how much of the product's wood comes from forests that meet SFI forest certification requirements and the other (illustrated here) shows that the manufacturer meets SFI's fiber sourcing requirements. Fiber sourcing labels do not make claims about certified content.



The certified fiber sourcing label demonstrates that the company has been certified by an independent accredited certification body as meeting the SFI 2005-2009 Standard's procurement requirements. It means that the company has, among other things:

- Taken measures to obtain fiber from legal sources
- Met state, provincial and federal laws regarding threatened and endangered species
- Encouraged landowners to incorporate actions that identify and protect or create habitat for wildlife
- Encouraged landowners to reforest harvested lands, both naturally and through replanting
- Encouraged landowners to protect riparian zones and water quality
- Implemented a verifiable monitoring system to continually improve the effectiveness of encouraging landowners to reforest harvested areas and apply best management practices to protect water quality
- Encouraged landowners to use loggers and resource professionals trained in sustainable forestry practices
- Conserved biodiversity hotspots and major tropical wilderness areas outside the U.S. and Canada as defined by Conservation International
- Encouraged economically, environmentally and socially sound practices outside the U.S. and Canada

SFI Standard Objective 8. To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through procurement programs.

Performance measures related to procurement from sources within the United States and Canada include:

Performance Measure 8.1. Program Participants shall encourage landowners to reforest following harvest, to use best management practices, and to identify and protect important habitat elements for wildlife, including critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities.

Performance Measure 8.2. Program Participants shall encourage landowners to utilize the services of qualified resource professionals and qualified logging professionals in applying principles of sustainable forest management on their lands.

Performance Measure 8.3. Program Participants shall clearly define and implement policies to ensure that mill inventories and procurement activities do not compromise adherence to the principles of sustainable forestry.

Performance Measure 8.4. Program Participants shall monitor the effectiveness of efforts to promote reforestation and best management practices, using public or private sources of information.

Performance measures related to procurement by manufacturing facilities enrolled in the SFI Program from sources outside the United States and Canada include:

Performance Measure 8.5. Program Participants shall ensure that their procurement programs support the principles of sustainable forestry, including efforts to thwart illegal logging and promote conservation of biological diversity.

Performance Measure 8.6. Program Participants shall encourage economically, environmentally, and socially sound practices.

For more information about the SFI program or fiber sourcing, visit www.sfiprogram.org or call Jason Metnick, Director, Market Access and Product Labeling at 602.374.6539

